

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



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**CITY SHOULD INCREASE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY**

The New Orleans Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released a [report](#) titled “Pedestrian Crossing Signals.”

The OIG evaluated how the City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) made decisions about where to install and how to maintain pedestrian crossing signals in New Orleans. The OIG conducted this evaluation because Orleans Parish had more fatalities than any other parish in the state from 2013 to 2015 and more than twice the rate of pedestrian injuries than Jefferson or East Baton Rouge parishes.

Evaluators found that 87 percent of signalized intersections in New Orleans did not have pedestrian crossing signals. The City had few pedestrian crossing signals because a longstanding informal policy at the DPW discouraged their installation, ignored traffic engineering best practices, and relied on “gut calls” to decide what type and how many signals were needed and when they required repair.

The OIG also found that the City failed to fulfill the pedestrian goals of its Master Plan and Complete Streets ordinance. The City ignored the requirements of its own Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan when adding and upgrading pedestrian signals to countdown timers downtown. Evaluators found that the DPW did not have a management system to properly plan and maintain pedestrian and traffic signal equipment.

Evaluators recommended that the City develop and implement a policy that increases the number of pedestrian crossing signals in New Orleans. They also recommended developing organizational structures to help achieve pedestrian goals in the Master Plan and Complete Streets ordinance. The OIG also recommended that the City ensure compliance with ADA standards and develop a geographic information system-based management system for traffic equipment and other street infrastructure.

“We are pleased that the City agreed to every recommendation in our report,” stated Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux. “While many public safety problems are tough to fix, pedestrian crossing signals are a proven solution to increasing pedestrian safety.”

The OIG also released a [video](#) and [In Brief](#) summary of the report. All OIG reports are posted on the website [nolaoig.gov](#).

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